

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 615

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John P. Davis, Jr.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John P. Davis, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, one of Blount County School District's longest-serving champions, John Davis influenced hundreds of young people and worked diligently on their behalf over the course of four decades; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis began his illustrious service with Blount County School System in the early 1970s when he took a job as a custodian in the county's maintenance department; and

WHEREAS, John Davis became an extremely talented and compassionate educator at both Lanier Elementary School and Porter Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, believing deeply in his mission of educating, empowering, and encouraging all students to achieve their maximum potential, Mr. Davis devoted himself to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students as the assistant principal of Heritage High School and the principal at Rush Strong Elementary School, Chilhowee View Elementary School, Walland Middle School, and William Blount High School; and

WHEREAS, this skilled administrator also masterfully performed his assigned duties as the system's Title I Supervisor in the late 1980s; and

WHEREAS, a renowned expert on the district's educational system, John Davis served with acumen and alacrity as the system's superintendant from 1990 until 1994, in which position

he earned the respect of the students, parents, and public alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, having proven himself to be a thoughtful and dedicated leader, Mr. Davis was elected to the Blount County School Board in 2004 and expertly served that noble institution as its Chairman until the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, John Davis was also a farmer who seized innovative agricultural opportunities and enjoyed taking part in ground-breaking energy enterprises, such as the harvesting of switch grass for ethanol production; and

WHEREAS, strongly committed to environmental stewardship, Mr. Davis implemented a wide variety of conservation projects on his own farm, including installing livestock exclusion fencing, creating multiple stream crossings, and installing alternate water systems that allowed him to rotate livestock; and

WHEREAS, extremely proud of his agricultural heritage, John Davis rendered sterling service as a member of the Tuckaleechee Utility District Board, Blount County Farm Bureau, Blount County Soil Conservation District, and Blount County Livestock Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, John Davis leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John P. Davis, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Davis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.